

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087696
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087696

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, BQG

SUBJECT: SOVIET APPROACH ON PRESIDENT'S BERLIN VISIT

1. DURING A MEETING ON OTHER MATTERS MARCH 29
WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS, SOVIET
MINISTER COUNSELOR VASEV BROUGHT UP PRESIDENT CARTER'S
PROBABLE VISIT TO BERLIN IN JULY IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN. VASEV DREW UPON SPEAKING
NOTES IN RUSSIAN WHICH HE LEFT WITH THE DEPT. INFORMAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 087696

TRANSLATION IS AS FOLLOWS: "TO GIVE THE VISIT OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA TO WEST BERLIN, IF IT IN
FACT TAKES PLACE, THAT SORT OF CHARACTER AS IF IT
WERE A PART OF THE VISIT TO THE FRG, JUST AS,
EQUALLY, THE INCLUSION IN THE TRIP TO THE CITY OF
ANY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRG, WOULD BE
INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF

3 SEPTEMBER 1971.

"WE EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT OUR APPEAL, DICTATED BY CONCERN OVER THE PRESERVATION OF A PEACEFUL, NORMAL SITUATION IN THE AREA OF THE EFFECT (APPLICATION) OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT, WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE AMERICAN SIDE IN ITS PREPARATION OF THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA TO WEST BERLIN AND THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL FIND WAYS AND MEANS OF NOT LETTING (PERMITTING) AN ABUSE OF THIS VISIT FOR PURPOSES ALIEN TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT."

2. LUERS SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK TO THE PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL PLANS BUT THE SOVIET SIDE COULD BE SURE THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT. VASEV CONCLUDED THAT THEY WERE NOT QUESTIONING THE RIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT BERLIN OR OUR POSITION THERE, BUT WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A VISIT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE HAD MENTIONED.

3. DEPT INTENDS TO RAISE MATTER WITH VASEV AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY AND TO POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY AND WHO MAY ACCOMPANY HIM
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PAGE 03 STATE 087696

TO BERLIN ARE NOT MATTERS WHICH ARE RESTRICTED BY THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT;

B) THE US IS FULLY AWARE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO FULLY RESPECT THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT.

4. US REP SHOULD INFORM THE BONN GROUP OF THE SOVIET APPROACH AND OUR INTENDED FOLLOW-UP REPLY. DEPT IS POUCHING RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEXT TO EMBASSY BONN AND USBERLIN. VANCE

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